

COUNTRY

Eastern Germany

REPORT NO.

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SIC Military Information from Wittenberg and the Wittenberg Engineer Training Area

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 15 to 18 July 1952

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 21 August 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 15 July 1952, three soldiers on guard, 9 large pontoons, 1 assault boat, 2 pneumatic rafts, an undetermined number of life preservers, ropes, boards and timber were seen at kilometer marker 215 on the right bank of the Elbe River south of Point 66.4 and south of the Elbtor (sic) near Wittenberg (N 52/E 37). A guard detail of 10 soldiers, 1 large tent, 2 trucks loaded with pontoons, 1 motor boat and an undetermined amount of timber, boards, ropes, pneumatic rafts and life preservers were seen at kilometer marker 212 on the right bank of the Elbe River south of the road which approaches the river from the Elster Vorstadt. [REDACTED] that there were three middle sections and six pointed pontoons among the pontoons. Ten large tents each housing a rifle rack, a table and 10 cots but no engineer equipment were seen at kilometer marker 210.5 on the right river bank south of Wittenberger Luch. Truck [REDACTED] hauled drinking water. Three men on guard, 2 large pontoons, 2 pneumatic rafts, beams, ropes, life preservers and sign boards were seen near kilometer marker 210.3 on the right side of the way from the Lutherbrunnen monument to the Elbe River, on the right bank of the river. A section of a bridge, about 3 meters wide and 15 meters long, consisting of rammed-in piles and a planking of beams and boards was built in a branch of the Elbe River which was about 20 meters wide. No training activity was noticed on 15 July. [REDACTED]

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2. On 18 July, the Taunentzien Kaserne was occupied by only a rear detail of about 100 to 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About 60 soldiers were emptying or filling straw sacks which were hauled or shipped away by trucks [REDACTED] Truck [REDACTED] left the barracks installation, carrying laundry and billeting equipment.

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3. On 18 July, a detail of about 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets was seen again for the first time at the engineer park. The entrance gate, which had been nailed up, was open again and was guarded by sentries. About 90 new spars, about 8 meters long, were stored there. Bridge building equipment was unloaded from truck [REDACTED]. It had been unloaded at the railroad station during the time from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on 17 July. Trucks [REDACTED] had helped haul the equipment from the railroad station. Five large pontoons, 4 small pontoons, about 30 beams, outboard motors, ropes, wire cables and ammunition boxes still lay on the ramp at the railroad station. *

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SECRET/ [REDACTED]

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* [REDACTED] Comment. This information supports the impression which was also gained from other reports that, in mid-July, a training period had been terminated in Wittenberg as well as in the Dessau engineer training area. While other reports indicated that, beginning 15 July 1952, several engineer units of the Third Gds Army left the training area, the present information indicates that equipment for the training was left and therefore it is probable that other units will train there. A report [REDACTED] indicated that at 0.55 a.m. on 17 July 1952 one such unit had already arrived in Wittenberg, and this is confirmed by the observation of the unloading operation, as reported in paragraph 3, of the present report. [REDACTED] the troops were engineers of the Third Gds Army, probably of the 7th Gds Tank Div in Dessau. [REDACTED] The occupation of the Taunitzien Kaserne, which probably quartered a temporarily smaller number of troops, and the observations made at the engineer park are also believed to be linked with the exchange of engineer units.

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SECRET/ [REDACTED]